

# Frequently Asked Questions!

## **Who manages SASO?**

SASO is managed by the SASO Program Office (AFS-30) within the FAA's Flight Standards Service (AFS).

## **Why is SASO being implemented?**

SASO is being implemented to infuse the system safety concept into AFS's core business processes and align safety oversight tools, infrastructure, and programs to support system safety based operations.

## **What is system safety and what are some of its benefits?**

System safety is the application of special technical and managerial skills to the systematic, forward-looking identification and control of hazards for the aviation industry.

System safety is being incorporated into AFS's core business processes to provide a more effective and efficient safety management approach that will further improve FAA's safety oversight capabilities. In addition, system safety provides a more cost effective means for achieving the FAA and AFS mission.

## **How will SASO affect existing safety oversight programs such as ATOS, CSET, FSAS, SPAS, and Oasis?**

One objective for SASO is to develop an environment where safety oversight programs operate collaboratively. All existing AFS programs will be analyzed and potentially modified or integrated to accomplish this objective.

Federal Aviation Administration



# SASO

## System Approach for Safety Oversight

Want more information on SASO?

*The SASO Outreach Team will be conducting Field Visits starting in '06.*

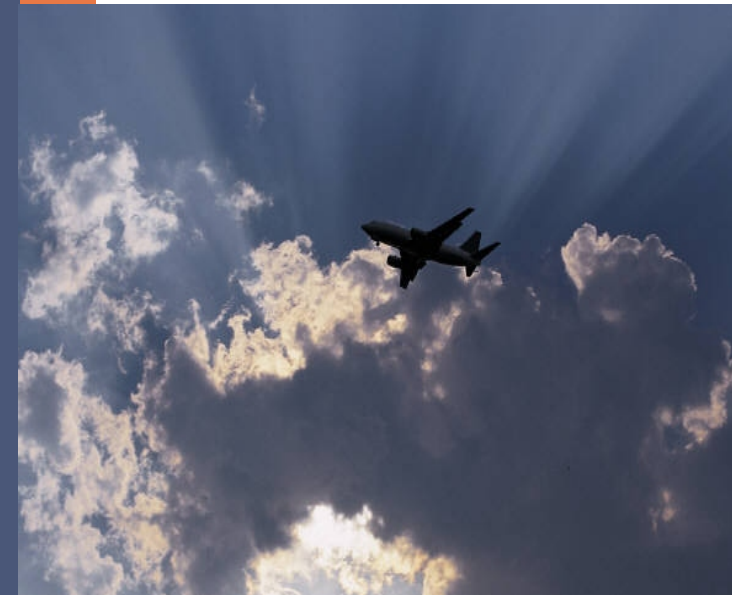
Can't wait until then?

*Check out the SASO Website at  
[Http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs\\_](http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/saso/)  
[Initiatives/oversight/saso/](http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/saso/)*

Would you like to get involved with SASO?

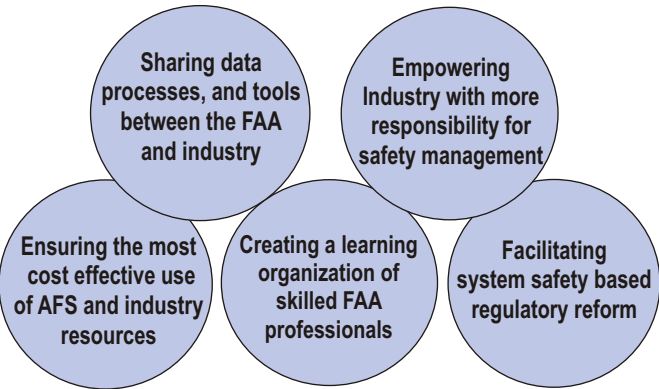
*Contact:  
SASO Program Office  
ATPCO Building, Suite 131  
45005 Aviation Drive  
Dulles, VA 20166*

*Email: [9-AWA-AFS-30-SASO@FAA.GOV](mailto:9-AWA-AFS-30-SASO@FAA.GOV)*



# What is SASO?

The System Approach for Safety Oversight (SASO) Program will transform the Flight Standards Service (AFS) and the aviation industry to a national standard of system safety by implementing a comprehensive set of world class system safety practices.



## Why is SASO Needed?

As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, AFS finds itself facing the dual challenges of increasing air traffic and declining budgets. Current FAA forecasts predict a 57% increase in total scheduled US airline passenger traffic over the period of 2005 - 2016, yet there will be fewer inspectors to oversee safety.

In order to reduce accidents while effectively managing resources, AFS must change the way it does business to achieve its goals. Oversight processes must evolve to reflect the rapidly changing aviation environment.

## Proposed Business Changes

Business Areas	Today	Tomorrow
Oversight Strategy	Regulatory Compliance	Safety Risk Management
Business Processes	Regulatory Compliance & End Product Observation	Regulatory Compliance PLUS Value-Added Program/System Examination
Information Technology	Independent Systems	Integrated Enterprise Architecture
Workforce Skills	Aviation Expertise	Aviation Expertise PLUS
Regulation & Guidance	Focus on Compliance	Reinforce System Safety
External Relationships	Varied & Circumstantial	Standardized & Collaborative
Management Organizations	Stovepipe Programs	Consolidated Programs

## Benefits to the Workforce

- Reduced emphasis on administrative requirements thus allowing for greater focus on safety oversight
- Consolidation of support applications and databases
- Increased information sharing with carriers regarding safety and oversight; common tools will be used by Industry and FAA
- Skills required for the new environment will be identified and supported; training will be timely and valuable

## How does SASO differ from other large FAA initiatives?

- It will be shaped by lessons learned from past large-scale initiatives
- It will integrate with other AVS programs and initiatives
- It will be developed in partnership with industry
- It will use pilot projects to assess, validate and adjust before doing full scale implementation

## The Current State (What has SASO Accomplished so Far?)

- Sponsorship and support from AFS Leadership
- Communication mechanisms for SASO are being developed
- Inspectors from the field have volunteered to assist with communicating to others about SASO
- A pilot project is getting underway
- System safety best practices inside and outside FAA are being identified

## The Future State (in over 10 Years)

- Majority of air carriers have mature safety management systems
- Air carriers manage safety..... Inspectors assure it
- Decision support systems produce more actionable information
- Regulations reinforce system safety
- FAA oversight cost growth stabilizes
- Industry and FAA culture of sharing information
- FAA transition to culture of safety risk management